Received December 12, 1765.

IV. *Account of an inedited Coin of the Empreſs* Criſpina. *In a Letter to the Rev.* Thomas Birch, *D. D. Secretary to the Royal Society, from the Rev.* John Swinton, *B. D. F. R. S. Member of the Academy* degli Apatiſti *at* Florence, *and of the* Etruſcan *Academy of* Cortona *in* Tuſcany.

SIR,

Read Feb. 13, 1766. AN inedited Greek coin of the empreſs Criſpina, which ſeems to have had a place formerly aſſigned it in the cabinet of the celebrated Profeſſor Ott, and from thence afterwards to have paſſed into that of his ſon, the late Reverend Mr. Ott, ſome years ſince fell into my hands. The medal is nearly of the ſize of the middle Roman braſs, and tolerably well preſerved. The workmanſhip is ſomewhat rude, and ſavours ſufficiently both of the age and the remote province in which it firſt appeared. On one ſide is exhibited the head of Criſpina, wife of the emperor Commodus, attended by the Greek legend ΚΡΙCΠΕΙΝΑ CΕΒΑCΤΗ, CRISPINA AVGVSTA; and on the reverſe two human figures, one ſitting in a chair, with a lance in its left hand, and the other ſtanding by its ſide, preſent themſelves to our view. They are both

ſurrounded by the inſcription ΔΑΡΔΑΝΟΣΣΗΝΩΝ, DARDANOSSENORVM, or DARDANOSSENSIVM, which evidently points at the inhabitants of ſome antient town. Not one of the letters, either of the legend or inſcription, has ſuffered greatly from the injuries of time.

Who the Dardanoſſenians were, or in what part of the world ſituated, I muſt not take upon me abſolutely to decide; the word ΔΑΡΔΑΝΟΣΣΑ, DARDANOSSA, not appearing, as the name of a city, in any antient writer. But that this word occurred, in ſuch a ſenſe, in the original text (1) of Ptolemy, and was afterwards converted by ſome ignorant tranſcriber into DARANISSA, which ſtill remains in all the printed and manuſcript copies of that author, will, I perſuade myſelf, not be conteſted by the critics of the preſent age. The coin therefore was ſtruck at Dardanoſſa, or Daraniſſa, which ſeems to have been a town ſeated in Sophene, a province of the Greater Armenia, in the reign of the emperor Commodus, where the Roman power at that time prevailed. And this is conſonant to the faith of hiſtory (2), from whence we learn, that the conqueſt of Armenia was effected, after the reduction of Artaxata, by Statius Priſcus, not many years before Commodus aſcended the imperial throne. Nay, the whole country is ſaid to have been conquered, and reduced to the form of a Roman province, in the days of Trajan. The figure of the *Sigma* likewiſe on this medal, ſo ſimilar to the form of that element on certain Armenian

(1) Ptol. *Geograph.* Lib. V. c. 13.
(2) Dio, Lib. LXVIII. Jul. Capitolin. in *Marc.* & in *Ver.* Lucian. p. 347. Jamblichus apud Photium, p. 242.

coins

coins of the ſame age, will bring a freſh acceſſion of ſtrength to the notion here propoſed to the conſideration of the learned; if it will not, in conjunction with what has been offered, evince this beyond the poſſibility of a doubt.

As the medal before me has never been hitherto publiſhed, nor perhaps ever ſeen in any other cabinet, either of the curious or the learned, I was inclined to believe, that a deſcription of it, as well as the draught of it attending this paper, [See TAB. I.] might not prove altogether unacceptable to the Royal Society; eſpecially, as it enables us to emend the corrupted proper name of a town in Ptolemy, and evinces Dardanoſſa, or Daraniſſa, to have been ſubject to Commodus when he preſided over the Roman world. Nor can any thing, as the authority of MSS. muſt give way to that of antient coins and inſcriptions, be better ſupported than ſuch an emendation. Nor have any coins of this city been ever diſcovered before. All which will, I flatter myſelf, be deemed a ſufficient apology for the trouble given on this occaſion by,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant,

Chriſt-Church, Oxon.
Dec. 7, 1765.

John Swinton.

V. *Obſervations*